

The Master Machiavellian

VOL. 1 #8

A M.dAM. P

1 April 1975

Dispatchio di Machiavelli

Greetings, to all who read these words, whether you be of high station or low, a prince of new dominions, a king of ancient family, or but an ambitious man, may you receive benefit from prescribing your ways by these words, and pleasure in the accomplishments thereof:

I believe that a number amongst those who read these sanctified pages have heard rumor of, or seen an issue of, the "imitation" Obsession game magazine. It was recently revealed to mortal eyes that the publisher of this famous counterfeit was the newly founded Simian and Shyster Company ((free plug; see Plug Section)). This is verified by "underground" connections.

~~This is a very serious matter, as it is a direct challenge to the authority of the Master Machiavellian.~~
This endeavor has inspired yet another counterfeit, that of The Master Machiavellian. This aforementioned counterfeit exhibits the distinctive first page, including the unmistakable script of title and signature. It also contains the latest news items from the battles normally carried by The Master Machiavellian. In order to appear exactly as The Master Machiavellian, it is printed in the easily recognizable black ditto, peculiar to the aforementioned magazine, par excellence. In short, the issue which is in these words discussed is, at this moment, before you.

The ghostwriter for the famous Machiavelli will, at this time, be known as Murray da Machiavellian. In the ensuing pages, you will hopefully be entertained by two articles from the pencil of Murray, keeping in the spirit of the above publishing date ((below title)).

I hope that you will be both stimulated and enriched by this publication. I know that through The Master Machiavellian you will gain better knowledge of the qualities of the lion and of the fox, of force and of fraud.

Murray da Machiavellian

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GHOSTWRITER'S NOTE: The staff of The Master Machiavellian will disavow any prior knowledge of this publication at the earliest possible opportunity -- MdaM

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STAFF AND INFO: The Master Machiavellian is a gamezine of postal Diplomacy, its variants, and other wargames. Subs are \$2 for \$2.50 (cont)

(cont.) Game fee is \$1.00 or \$1.50 for Colonia, and does not include a sub. TMM is pubbed every fourth Tuesday. . . . Diplomacy, copyright Games Research Inc., 500 Harrison St., Boston, MA 02118, was invented by Alan B. Calhamer -- Please make all checks payable to Michael George Homeier. Present paying circulation: an unbelievable 18! STAFF: (not present at pubbing time) Acting Editor, Financial editor, Redactor: Michael George Homeier; Senior Editor: Peter Homeier; Games Master: Jonathan Reich (rich); Major Contributor (though still a minor): Timothy Lee; . . . GHOSTWRITER & PRO T&M STAFF: Murray da Machiavellian.

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1974HO

RUSSIA MOVES TO REGAIN HER LOST
ICE MONOPOLY AS FRANCE COMES UNDONE

Fall 1902

AUSTRIA(Kissner): F Gro S ITALIAN F Aeg-Bul(sc); A Ser S ITALIAN F Aeg-Bul(sc); A Bud H; A Vie S A Bud; A Tri S A Ser.
ENGLAND(Zimmermann): F Nth-Nwy; F StP(nc) S F Nth-Nwy; F Wal-Liv; A Yor-Lon.
FRANCE(Osheroff): F Eng-Nth; F Iri-Liv; A Pic-Par; A Spa-Mar.
GERMANY(Fujihara): F Den-Swe; A Hol-Bel; A Ruh S A Hol-Bel; A Mun S A Bur H; A Bur S ITALIAN A Pie-Mar.
ITALY(Ferguson): F Aeg-Bul(sc); F Tyr-Lyo; A Pie-Mar; A Tun H.
RUSSIA(Swaback): F Swa-Bot; F Bla S TURKISH A Bul H; A Rum S TURKISH A Bul H; A Cal S A Rum; A War S A Cal; A Ukr-Mos.
TURKEY(Lucero): F Smy-Aeg; F Ank S A Con; A Con S A Bul; A Bul S RUSSIAN A Rum.

--On the subject of conditional orders, we must say that, because they would eliminate the guessing factor of orders and insure correct moves, they are not allowed. The next issue will contain the supp center chart; build orders are due with Sp. '03 orders. We asked **you all which end-of-year system to employ (Fall-Winter or Winter-Spr)** but only two of you responded. Send in your vote. Next deadline 26 April. Jon Reich's address: 1443 Jonesboro Dr., L.A., CA 90049 - Mdam

Ankara Herald Advocate, 33 ((that's what it said!)) June '02: "The Sultan announced yesterday that he was pleased with the number of countries that have established diplomatic relations with his government since the Constitution was adopted. He is pleased with the reaction of the populace as well, and feels that, for the first time in a considerable period, the Empire is now the leader of Europe in the pursuit of peace."

MOSCOW: "The Tsar was happy to announce today that the King-Emperor of Austria-Hungary would have to cancel his vacation in the Urals and hopes England has enjoyed his short stay."

Constantinople Clarion, 22 July '02: "The Prime Minister announced today that the governments of H.I.M. The Sultan and King Zimmermann LXXXIII have successfully concluded the Boer War in Africa. Joint occupation of the former Zulu and Trekker states of Transvaal and Orange Free State has been established, and, as a reward for his efforts, His Majesty has been given all of the British Caribbean Islands and British Honduras by King Zimmermann. In addition, several score of ships were purchased, and a permanent treaty of peace was signed."

Washington Post, 30 July '02: WASHINGTON D.C., U.S.A. -- "It was announced today in the State Department's press conference that orders have been given commencing the mobilization of the United States Army and the dispatching of major units of the United States Navy to battle positions in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico as well as along the Atlantic seaboard. The reason given by the press secretary was the

(CONT. PAGE 4)

ARTICLE I

Whereas, I feel that the readers require an explanation in relation to the sudden disappearance of the "normal" staff: On April 1st, 1975 ((notedate)), I entered the TMM offices for the first time, in order to discover what assignments awaited me. I found the acting editor, Michael Homeier, acting as a Napoleonic infantryman, taking pot shots at a picture of Conrad von Metzke (blank paper, of course) with Diplomacy armies and fleets. He didn't seem to notice me, and I placed myself at a desk, perusing through a copy of The Prince I had found in the office. After a peruse or two, Peter Homeier entered carrying a pocket I.B.M. 370 computer and an electronic crystal ball.

"Oh, hello," he said. "Do you want something to do?"

This was the first sound in the room, other than the flying pieces of colored wood. Michael noticed me and took off his cocked hat.

"Not especially," I said. "Do you have something that doesn't need to be done?"

"No," said Michael. "But we haven't been able to find Nick, and without him we'd lose subscribers. Which reminds me, we also need more publicity. It means more money, you know."

This brought to mind a question: why wasn't the GamesMaster the treasurer? At this point, Jonathan Reich stuck his head round the corner of the door and asked, "Money? Money? Who said 'money'?" My question was answered.

Stating that Metzke's blank expression bothered him, Jon removed the paper from the wall, picked up a few Diplomacy pieces from the floor, and, after suffering a number of minor bruises from more wooden projectiles, sat at his desk, put out his "The Buck Stops Here" sign, and placed the armies and fleets in proper position on the platinum Diplomacy map engraved on the desktop.

Peter continued, "We've been searching far and wide, through the house, for Niccolo, but it can't even get a beginning on a copy of it. Why don't have a single article written, and today's the printing date!" And

This reminded me of our major contributor, Timothy Lee. And, as if to answer my question ...

Needless to say, Tim was now in the room, typewriter, pencils, erasers, etc. sticking from the vicinity of his ears (the typewriter, however, was under his arm).

"Does anyone want an article, maybe?" he asked.

"Sure, but you'll have to type as you walk," said Michael. "We're off to find Nick." Which sounded familiar.

Everyone went outside to load into Jon's Sherman tank. Peter took his crystal ball, Michael his cocked hat, Jon his desktop, and Tim his typewriter etc. As Tim left, he asked me if I'd like a back copy of his North Africa series. I declined and bid adieu to the staff.

I returned to the office and sat down to wait. I noticed a small billow of smoke rising from the middle of the floor. With nothing better to do (requiring less work, I mean), I watched it. I realized, as it swirled, that it was swirling into The Master of Machiavellians, Nick . . .

ARTICLE II

After recovering from the shock of the situation ((and unplugging myself from the wall)), I picked myself up off the floor to hear Machiavelli mumble as he read a piece of ancient parchment, and ate a slice of pizza. Thinking it might be important (what did I know?), I diligently inscribed the words we spoke. I hereby present them:

"New Diplomacy game. TMM #2 until receiving of a Boardman Number.

GamesMaster to be Jonathan Reich, 1443 Jonesboro Dr., L.A., CA 90049. Deadline for Spring '01 orders 26th of April. Countries cast randomly. New princes for game: Austria-Hungry (Terry Lucero, 17045 Olmeda Way, San Diego, CA 92127) needs food; England (Gary Benhen, 8715 Morris Rd, Bloomington, MN 55437) plans to stay afloat, or maybe a soda; France (Wiley Carter, 10628 Blythe Ave., L.A., CA 90064) plans to win; Germany (Erich Swabeck, 622 Victoria Ave., Venice, CA 90291), 'Ich hab das Shon gesagt!'; Italy (John Weswig, 2115 N. W. Elder St., Corvallis OR 97330) does not plan to evacuate immediately; Russia (Russell Fox, 5160 Donna Ave., Tarzana CA 91356) needs anti-freeze -- it does wonders to keep the men warm; Turkey (Jon Pepper, 3542 Meier St., L.A. CA 90066) needs Greece."

At this point he simultaneously finished his pizza and looked up to see me!

"Oh, hello! I'm Nick Machiavelli. And who might you be?"

"I'm just a humble little humorist ((no comment)), quaked I.

"Ah! A bit of that myself. Thought I'd show up late. But, at least you'll do the issue. Do they know it yet?"

"No, not yet."

"All the better. Good day!"

As he faded away he dropped a piece or so of parchment. One had the current moves from the current game currently on page two ((I hate current!!!)), the other had this issue's plugs. All had been resolved, Nick had gone back to his old haunts, and I had a feeling I had met him before. It must have been the electronic crystal ball.

-- Murray da Machiavellian

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PUBLIC RELATIONS!

APRIL FOOLS -- Murray is one of them. No offense, Murray. I met Murray when I was very young and was always entertained by his humor ((to each his own)). I felt an episode such as this might get the blood of the magazine flowing ((on the floor!)), not to mention subscriptions. Please send in your comments, good or bad, to David H. Calvert, c/o The Master Machiavellian, 238 N. Bowling Green Way, L.A. CA 90049 USA. If enough favorable responses arrive, I'll drag Murray from his studies this summer to write.

While you're commenting, why not take a stab at Murray's identity? We reserve the right to publish any comment or stab (unless expressly forbidden by another given stab or comment), and to edit such publications. Thank you.

-- David H. Calvert

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(Press cont.) -- "recent cession of certain Middle American territories formerly owned by the Kingdom of Great Britain to the Turkish Empire -- an open abridgement of the policies of the Monroe Doctrine on the subject of European involvement in the Western Hemisphere. In a letter to the Turkish government, the United States government applauded Turkey for her steps toward true democracy and peace, but continued on to warn Turkey that her accession and occupation of the ceded colonies would be regarded as a severe threat of the gravest importance to the security of not only the United States but the whole of the Western Hemisphere. The letter's going unanswered has resulted in today's mobilization. Backed by the public, the United States stands fully armed and ready to fight, and awaits the Turkish response."

VIENNA, 2 Aug. '02: "The King came back from his summer vacation in the Urals today. The King said that he liked Russia--" (cont. P. 5)

(press cont.) "—so much that he plans on going there again next year (rumor has it that Sevastopol will be the King's destination)."

ROME, 3 Aug. '02: "His Highness, King Ferguson XXVII, announced today that he has enlisted a new ally: Afghanistan. Unfortunately, it was revealed that it will be 1908 before an army of Afghans can reach the front. His Highness remarked: "Dat'sa all right. Itsa gonna be dat long before wesa gonna stockpila dat much doggy food."

VIENNA, 19 Aug. '02: "Field Marshal Gratestdorf announced today that final preparations for a campaign against Russia were being carried out. The Field Marshal invited all countries to join in the fun."

PARIS, 28 Aug. '02: "It was reported by a reliable source that the rumors are true; Turkey and England have successfully defeated and occupied the colonies of Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Senegal. Presidente Osheroff was unavailable for comment, being in conference all day concerning the recent German invasion and our own invasion of England, and it is assumed that these problems must be dealt with first before getting involved in an African squabble."

BUDAPEST, 1 Sept. '02: "The King-Emperor was today declared head of the newly-established Church of Austria-Hungary. After 1st Oct., all government officials must have some sort of religious title. One of the unique features of this new church is that all men will be allowed to marry and divorce at will (this has resulted in a great increase in the tourists coming to the Empire, including at least one from the distant metropolis of Los Angeles, U.S.A." ((?))

Damascus Denouncer, 7 Oct. '02: "It was announced today that our victorious troops have succeeded in occupying and reannexing the revolting ((true)) province of Libya, formerly under Italian control ((not true; Turkey held Libya until 1911 war)), and reestablishing our protectorates over Egypt with England's permission. It is hoped that Italy will see the foolishness of aiding Austria against us by occupying the Turkish (Aegean) Sea, and withdraw. It is further hoped that Austria will cease to impede our re-annexation of the revolting provinces of Greece and Serbia, which is all we wish to do."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Although TMM is expanding to eight pages, this is to accommodate the new game. We do encourage press because we think its enjoyable to read and adds to the flavor of the games. BUT. If you want any articles in addition to just games and press what we will probably have to do is to limit press releases to 1/2 of a page single spaced typed. The resulting room would be a continuation of the little known article and a column by Peter Howell on the enjoyable popular new game of Dungeons and Dragons, including the latest California Institute of Technology errata to the original rules by Gary Gygax which provide more realism and a truly enjoyable game.

We still need four more players for the Colonia game (I say this each issue). The map is under production, but this was slowed somewhat by the receipt of a new revised better map. It is well worth your time and the little money it costs to enter this variant. And you gamers already signed up: try and get some of your acquaintances to join. If you can't, you may have the staff of TMM playing with you -- and you wouldn't want that, would you?

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PLUGS

((Great planning! I'm at the end of the ditto. See next page. Ugh!))

((Sorry about that dumb mistake. Now for plugs)) : By Nick & Murray

BY MURRAY:

Us and Them? I noticed that Nick forgot Us and Them last ish, and thish. Us and Them is just starting, on its third issue, and priced well . . . \$2.50 for 12, \$1.50 for games unless you subscribe and enter a game simultaneously, then the game's free. Hey Larry! Put Murray da Machiavellian down for plugging you and enroll me in a game! I'm taking the option! Us and Them is published about every four weeks by the Simian and Shyster Publishing Co., 5340 N. Ricewood Ave., Fresno, CA 93705.

BY NICK:

Centurion. This is a new gamezine just beginning under the able guidance of Russ Fox. It is pubbed tri-weekly, will carry games in regular Diplomacy and the Youngstown Variant, at a cost of 4/\$1, 8/\$2, or 8/\$2.25 airmail. For more info on this zine and its offer of free issues for contributions, contact Russell Fox, 5160 Donna Ave., Tarzana California 91356.

THE EXPONENT. This is a Diplomacy zine published by the John Dewey High School Strategic Games Club. It is mimeo run for 10/\$1.50. There is no game fee. This zine runs games of Dippy and Dungeons and Dragons (see ANNOUNCEMENTS), and will give free issues for contribution articles. For more info on this zine contact Richard Kovalcik, 947 56th St., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

NOTE: Due to small circulation, TMM does not have the finances to run a permanent review section for zines. We will, however, plug all those zines with whom we trade as much as possible, and should the time come when we can expand to include a zine review section, we will not hesitate to incorporate one.

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DAS DEUTSCHES AFRIKA KORPS (continuation)

The low supply priority to the North African theater assigned by the German High Command forced Rommel to come up with improvised AFVs of his own design. Guns were mounted on German and Italian trucks sporting plate armor cut from the hulls of sunken ships. 50mm cannon were taken from the smashed wreckages of Panzer IIIs and remounted into other panzers extending the life of the obsolete Panzer III chassis; even captured British Matildas and Crusaders were pressed into service, their new crews operating them for as long as their tanks could run -- which, unfortunately for the Afrika Korps, was not long.

-- Timothy Lee

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